

FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2009

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture
 2 commissioner; ~~to create and enact a new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century~~
 3 ~~Code, relating to the establishment of a post-production royalty oversight program;~~ to amend
 4 and reenact sections 4.1-01-02, 4.1-01-18, 4.1-01-21.1, ~~49-22-09~~, and 49-22-09.2 of the North
 5 Dakota Century Code, relating to the salary of the agriculture commissioner, the federal
 6 environmental law impact review committee, the environmental impact mitigation fund, ~~factors-~~
 7 ~~to be considered in evaluating applications and designations of sites, corridors, and routes,~~ and
 8 mitigating ~~direct and indirect~~ environmental impacts; to provide for a transfer; ~~and~~ to provide an
 9 exemption; and to provide for a legislative management study.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

11 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.** The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds
 12 as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state
 13 treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and
 14 other income, to the agriculture commissioner for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
 15 agriculture commissioner, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025,
 16 as follows.

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
19 Salaries and wages	\$15,717,126	\$1,693,446	\$17,410,572
20 Operating expenses	6,848,052	588,121	7,436,173
21 <u>Salaries and wages</u>	<u>\$15,717,126</u>	<u>\$873,888</u>	<u>\$16,591,014</u>
22 <u>Operating expenses</u>	<u>6,848,052</u>	<u>578,121</u>	<u>7,426,173</u>
23 Capital assets	15,000	(8,000)	7,000
24 Grants	9,031,774	1,922,195	10,953,969

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1	<u>Grants</u>	<u>9,031,774</u>	<u>3,922,195</u>	<u>12,953,969</u>
2	Agricultural products utilization	1,760,417	3,350,000	5,110,417
3	commission			
4	North Dakota trade office	1,600,000	500,000	2,100,000
5	Board of animal health	865,718	0	865,718
6	Wildlife services	1,457,400	200,000	1,657,400
7	Pipeline restoration and reclamation	200,000	0	200,000
8	oversight program			
9	<u>Bioscience innovation program transfer</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,500,000</u>	<u>6,500,000</u>
10	Crop harmonization board	<u>75,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>75,000</u>
11	Total all funds	\$37,570,487	\$8,245,762	\$45,816,249
12	Less estimated income	24,110,775	6,025,073	30,135,848
13	Total general fund	\$13,459,712	\$2,220,689	\$15,680,401
14	Full-time equivalent positions	79.00	2.00	81.00
15	<u>Total all funds</u>	<u>\$37,570,487</u>	<u>\$15,916,204</u>	<u>\$53,486,691</u>
16	<u>Less estimated income</u>	<u>24,110,775</u>	<u>6,856,343</u>	<u>30,967,118</u>
17	<u>Total general fund</u>	<u>\$13,459,712</u>	<u>\$9,059,861</u>	<u>\$22,519,573</u>
18	<u>Full-time equivalent positions</u>	<u>79.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO

SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act:

	<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
24	Agricultural products utilization commission	\$2,700,000	\$3,000,000
25	Soil health grants	700,000	0
26	Grasslands grazing grants	5,000,000	0
27	Bioscience innovation grant program	5,500,000	0
28	<u>Grasslands grazing grants</u>	<u>5,000,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
29	<u>Bioscience innovation grant program transfer</u>	<u>5,500,000</u>	<u>6,500,000</u>
30	<u>Food distribution grants</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
31	Federal environmental law impact review	5,000,000	0

1	Intermodal facility construction grant program	2,000,000	0
2	North Dakota trade office	0	500,000
3	Total all funds	\$20,900,000	\$3,500,000
4	Less estimated income	10,400,000	3,000,000
5	Total general fund	\$10,500,000	\$500,000
6	Total all funds	\$20,900,000	\$12,000,000
7	Less estimated income	10,400,000	4,000,000
8	Total general fund	\$10,500,000	\$8,000,000

9 The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget
10 for the 2025-27 biennium. The agriculture commissioner shall report to the appropriations
11 committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the
12 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

13 **SECTION 3. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**
14 **BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION FUND - BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.** The
15 office of management and budget shall transfer \$5,500,000 from the strategic investment and
16 improvements fund to the bioscience innovation grant fund for the purpose of the bioscience
17 innovation grant program under section 4.1-01-20.1 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,
18 and ending June 30, 2025.

19 **SECTION 4. TRANSFER - ~~LEGACY EARNINGS~~GENERAL FUND TO BIOSCIENCE**
20 **INNOVATION FUND - BIOSCIENCE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.** ~~Pursuant to the~~
21 ~~designation of funding for other legislative purposes under subdivision c of subsection 4 of~~
22 ~~section 21-10-13, the office of management and budget shall transfer~~The bioscience innovation
23 program transfer line item in section 1 of this Act includes \$6,500,000 from the ~~legacy-~~
24 ~~earnings~~general fund, which the office of management and budget shall transfer to the
25 bioscience innovation grant fund for the purpose of the bioscience innovation grant program
26 under section 4.1-01-20.1 for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

27 **SECTION 5. TRANSFER - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION FUND TO**
28 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MITIGATION FUND - MITIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.**
29 The ~~office of management and budget~~agriculture commissioner shall transfer \$250,000 from the
30 environment and rangeland protection fund to the environmental impact mitigation fund for the

1 purpose of mitigation of agricultural land under section 4.1-01-21.1 for the biennium beginning
2 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

3 **SECTION 6. ESTIMATED INCOME - TRANSFER - DEPARTMENT OF WATER**

4 **RESOURCES.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of
5 \$125,000 which the department of water resources shall transfer to the agriculture
6 commissioner for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the wildlife services program.

7 **SECTION 7. TRANSFER - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION FUND -**

8 **MINOR USE PESTICIDE FUND.** The agriculture commissioner shall transfer \$325,000 from the
9 environment and rangeland protection fund to the minor use pesticide fund during the biennium
10 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

11 **SECTION 8. ESTIMATED INCOME - ENVIRONMENT AND RANGELAND PROTECTION**

12 **FUND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of
13 ~~\$7,344,029~~ \$7,351,547 from the environment and rangeland protection fund for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of various agriculture commissioner programs.

15 **SECTION 9. ESTIMATED INCOME - GAME AND FISH FUND.** The estimated income line
16 item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$648,228 from the game and fish department
17 operating fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses of various agriculture commissioner
18 programs.

19 **SECTION 10. ESTIMATED INCOME - TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA**

20 **PROFITS - AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UTILIZATION COMMISSION.** The estimated
21 income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$3,000,000 which the Bank of North
22 Dakota shall transfer from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits to the agriculture
23 commissioner for deposit in the agricultural products utilization fund for the purpose of defraying
24 the expenses of the agricultural products utilization commission for the biennium beginning
25 July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

26 **SECTION 11. ESTIMATED INCOME - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS**

27 **FUND - GRASSLANDS GRAZING GRANTS - MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.** The
28 estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$1,000,000 from the
29 strategic investment and improvements fund for the purpose of providing grasslands grazing
30 grants to an organization representing cooperative grazing associations in the state. To be
31 eligible for a grant under this program, an organization must provide one dollar of matching

1 funds from nonstate sources for every four dollars of grant funding. An organization that
2 receives a grant under this program may distribute the funding to cooperative grazing
3 associations for eligible infrastructure projects, which must be located on national grasslands
4 within the state. Eligible infrastructure projects include water development; fencing;
5 conservation initiatives; compliance with federal permitting requirements, including fees for
6 professional services; and other projects to enhance wildlife habitat or capture carbon, or to
7 increase the health of grasslands. Program participants shall develop and implement a grazing
8 land plan in compliance with local soil conservation district guidance and the plan must be
9 approved by the local soil conservation district. The agriculture commissioner shall establish
10 additional guidelines for the program.

11 **SECTION 12. ESTIMATED INCOME - ABANDONED OIL AND GAS WELL PLUGGING**
12 **AND SITE RECLAMATION FUND.** The estimated income line item in section 1 of this Act
13 includes the sum of \$700,000 from the abandoned oil and gas well plugging and site
14 reclamation fund, of which \$200,000 is for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the pipeline
15 restoration and reclamation program and \$500,000 is for the purpose of defraying the expenses
16 of the post-production royalty oversight program.

17 **SECTION 13. TRADE OFFICE - MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.** The North Dakota
18 trade office line item and the general fund appropriation in section 1 of this Act include
19 \$2,100,000 of funding related to the North Dakota trade office. The agriculture commissioner
20 may spend sixty percent of this amount without requiring any matching funds from the trade
21 office. Any additional amounts may be spent only to the extent the North Dakota trade office
22 provides one dollar of matching funds from private or other public sources for each one dollar
23 provided by the agriculture commissioner. Matching funds may include money spent by
24 businesses or organizations to pay salaries to export assistants, providing training to export
25 assistants, or to purchase computer equipment as part of the North Dakota trade office's export
26 assistant program.

27 **SECTION 14. WATERBANK PROGRAM - MATCHING FUNDS.** The salaries and wages
28 line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$50,000 from the general fund for matching funds
29 for the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund grant provided for the waterbank program.

30 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **4.1-01-02. Salary of agriculture commissioner.**

2 The annual salary of the agriculture commissioner is one hundred ~~twenty-one~~thirty~~thirty-one~~
3 thousand ~~five hundred fifty-three~~four hundred twenty-three dollars through June 30, ~~2022~~2024,
4 and one hundred ~~twenty-three~~thirty-five~~thirty-six~~ thousand ~~nine~~two~~six~~ hundred ~~eighty-four~~eighty
5 dollars after that date.

6 ~~SECTION 15. A new section to chapter 4.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~**Post-production royalty oversight program:**~~

9 ~~The commissioner shall establish a post-production royalty oversight program providing~~
10 ~~technical assistance and support to mineral owners, lease owners, and mineral companies~~
11 ~~relating to royalty payment issues. The commissioner may contract for ombudsmen for~~
12 ~~assistance on royalty payment issues. The commissioner is not subject to the provisions of~~
13 ~~chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for the services of ombudsmen. The names of mineral~~
14 ~~owners, lease owners, and mineral companies that receive assistance under the program are~~
15 ~~not subject to section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota.~~

16 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **4.1-01-18. Federal environmental law impact review committee.**

- 19 1. The federal environmental law impact review committee consists of:
- 20 a. The commissioner, who shall serve as the chairman;
 - 21 b. The governor or the governor's designee;
 - 22 c. The majority leader of the house of representatives, or the leader's designee;
 - 23 d. The majority leader of the senate, or the leader's designee;
 - 24 e. One member of the legislative assembly from the minority party, selected by the
 - 25 chairman of the legislative management;
 - 26 f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota corn growers association;
 - 27 g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota grain growers association;
 - 28 h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota soybean growers association;
 - 29 i. One individual appointed by the North Dakota stockmen's association;
 - 30 j. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau;
 - 31 k. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union;

- 1 l. The chairman of the public service commission or the chairman's designee;
- 2 m. The director of the department of water resources or the director's designee;
- 3 n. The director of the game and fish department, or the director's designee;
- 4 o. The director of the department of transportation, or the director's designee;
- 5 p. The director of the department of environmental quality, or the director's
- 6 designee;
- 7 q. One representative of an investor-owned utility company;
- 8 r. One representative from the North Dakota association of rural electric
- 9 cooperatives; and
- 10 s. Two individuals from the energy community, of which one individual must be a
- 11 representative of an organization that supports lignite energy in the state
- 12 appointed by the commissioner and one individual must be a representative of an
- 13 organization that supports oil and gas activity in the state appointed by the
- 14 governor.
- 15 2. The committee shall review federal environmental legislation and regulations
- 16 detrimentally impacting or potentially detrimentally impacting the state's agricultural,
- 17 energy, or oil production sectors. The committee shall confer with the attorney general
- 18 with respect to participation in administrative or judicial processes pertaining to the
- 19 legislation or regulations.
- 20 3. a. Any member of the legislative assembly serving on the committee is entitled to
- 21 compensation at the rate provided for attendance at interim committee meetings
- 22 and reimbursement for expenses, as provided by law for state officers, if the
- 23 member is attending meetings of the committee or performing duties directed by
- 24 the committee.
- 25 b. The compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for in this
- 26 subsection, are payable by the legislative council.

27 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-01-21.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
28 amended and reenacted as follows:

1 **4.1-01-21.1. Environmental impact mitigation fund - Report to legislative management**

2 **- Continuing appropriation.**

3 1. There is created in the state treasury the environmental impact mitigation fund. The
4 fund consists of all moneys deposited in the fund under section 49-22-09.2. All
5 moneys in the fund are appropriated to the commissioner on a continuing basis for
6 distribution and disbursement by the ~~agriculture~~ commissioner to landowners for the
7 mitigation of agricultural land impacted by development as set forth under subsection
8 2 in accordance with this section.

9 2. ~~Funding~~ Moneys in the fund may be used only for:

- 10 a. ~~Contracting for consultation~~ Consultation with environmental scientists or
11 engineers, industry specialists, or others for relevant services to analyze or
12 implement mitigation required from the impact of development; and
13 b. ~~Reclamation or mitigation~~ Creation, restoration, or mitigation of similar habitat
14 affected by the construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission
15 facility. Mitigation of adverse impacts from development under this section shall
16 be conducted in the following order of priority:
17 (1) The area immediately impacted by the development;
18 (2) The county impacted by the development;
19 (3) The region impacted by the development; and
20 (4) Other areas within the state.

21 3. The commissioner is not subject to chapter 54-44.4 when contracting for services
22 under this chapter.

23 4. ~~The federal environmental law impact review committee shall establish criteria for~~
24 ~~disbursement of moneys in the environmental impact funds~~ mitigation fund In
25 consultation with the federal environmental law impact review committee, the
26 commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 28-32 to implement the provisions
27 of this section.

28 5. ~~The commissioner shall make disbursements of moneys in the environmental impact~~
29 ~~mitigation fund based upon the determinations made by the federal environmental law~~
30 ~~impact review committee.~~ —

1 ~~6.~~ For purposes of this section, the federal environmental law impact review committee
2 shall hold meetings as the chairman determines necessary at a time and place set by
3 the chairman. Upon written request of any four members, the presiding officer shall
4 call a special meeting of the committee.

5 ~~7.~~ The federal environmental law impact review committee shall make determinations for
6 the disbursement of environmental impact mitigation fund grants in accordance with
7 subsection 2 and provide those determinations to the commissioner Easements or
8 leaseholds purchased by a person to mitigate adverse environmental effects of the
9 construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission facility under
10 chapter 49-22 must be limited to the operational life of the facility as defined under
11 chapter 49-22. Any payment made to mitigate adverse environmental effects of the
12 construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission facility under
13 chapter 49-22 must be made to the commissioner who shall deposit the payment into
14 the environmental impact mitigation fund. Prior to the public service commission
15 issuing a permit or certificate to an applicant under chapter 49-22, the commissioner
16 shall notify the public service commission of mitigation efforts under this section to
17 create, restore, or mitigate similar habitat affected by the construction or operation of
18 an energy conversion or transmission facility.

19 ~~8.6.~~ The ~~federal environmental law impact review committee~~ commissioner shall provide a
20 biennial report of environmental impact mitigation fund disbursements to the legislative
21 management.

22 ~~9.7.~~ For purposes of this section, the environmental impact mitigation fund is not subject to
23 subsection 2 of section 4.1-01-18.

24 ~~SECTION 19. AMENDMENT. Section 49-22-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is~~
25 ~~amended and reenacted as follows:~~

26 ~~49-22-09. Factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designation of~~
27 ~~sites, corridors, and routes.~~

28 ~~1.~~ The commission shall be guided by, but is not limited to, the following considerations,
29 where applicable, to aid the evaluation and designation of sites, corridors, and routes:

- ~~1 a. Available research and investigations relating to the effects of the location,~~
- ~~2 construction, and operation of the proposed facility on public health and welfare,~~
- ~~3 natural resources, and the environment.~~
- ~~4 b. The effects of new electric energy conversion and electric transmission~~
- ~~5 technologies and systems designed to minimize adverse environmental effects.~~
- ~~6 c. The potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from a proposed electric energy~~
- ~~7 conversion facility.~~
- ~~8 d. Adverse direct and indirect environmental effects that cannot be avoided should~~
- ~~9 the proposed site or route be designated.~~
- ~~10 e. Alternatives to the proposed site, corridor, or route which are developed during~~
- ~~11 the hearing process and which minimize adverse effects.~~
- ~~12 f. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of natural resources should the~~
- ~~13 proposed site, corridor, or route be designated.~~
- ~~14 g. The direct and indirect economic impacts of the proposed facility.~~
- ~~15 h. Existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities for other~~
- ~~16 developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed site, corridor, or route.~~
- ~~17 i. The effect of the proposed site or route on existing scenic areas, historic sites~~
- ~~18 and structures, and paleontological or archaeological sites.~~
- ~~19 j. The effect of the proposed site or route on areas unique because of biological~~
- ~~20 wealth or because the areas are habitats for rare and endangered species.~~
- ~~21 k. Problems raised by federal agencies, other state agencies, and local entities.~~
- ~~22 l. Written comments from the agriculture commissioner.~~
- ~~23 2. The commission may not condition the issuance of a certificate or permit on the~~
- ~~24 applicant providing a mitigation payment assessed or requested by another state~~
- ~~25 agency or entity to offset a negative impact on wildlife habitat.~~

26 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 49-22-09.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **49-22-09.2. Mitigating ~~direct or indirect~~ environmental impacts.**

- 29 ~~1. An applicant may elect to shall provide payment to mitigate any assessed adverse~~
- 30 ~~direct or indirect environmental impacts of a proposed site, corridor, route, or facility.~~

1 ~~The applicant may elect to shall provide a minimum of fifty percent of the payment to~~
2 ~~the agriculture commissioner.~~

3 ~~2. The agriculture commissioner shall deposit any moneys paid to mitigate the adverse~~
4 ~~environmental impacts of a proposed site, corridor, route, or facility as follows:~~

5 a. Fifty percent ~~into the environmental impact mitigation fund~~; and

6 b. Fifty percent into the federal environmental law impact review fund If an applicant
7 elects to provide a payment to mitigate the environmental impact of the
8 construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission facility, the
9 payment must be made to the agriculture commissioner who shall deposit the
10 payment into the environmental impact mitigation fund under section 4.1-01-21.1.
11 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit an applicant from conducting
12 mitigation activities.

13 **SECTION 19. WILDLIFE SERVICES PROGRAM - INDIRECT COSTS.** The wildlife
14 services line item in section 1 of this Act includes the sum of \$1,657,400 for the purpose of
15 defraying the expenses of the wildlife services program during the biennium beginning July 1,
16 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The agriculture commissioner may not use funding
17 appropriated for the program to pay indirect costs as part of the United States department of
18 agriculture animal and plant health inspection service wildlife services program.

19 **SECTION 20. EXEMPTION - COVID-19 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**
20 **AND COVID-19 STRESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** The amount of ~~\$5,000,000~~\$5,500,000
21 appropriated from federal funds derived from COVID-19 funds, of which \$5,000,000 was for the
22 specialty crop block grant program and \$500,000 was for stress assistance program operating
23 expenses. during the 2019-21 biennium in section 1 of chapter 27 and continued into the
24 2021-23 biennium in section 2 of chapter 27 of the 2021 Session Laws is not subject to section
25 54-44.1-11 and is available for the ~~program~~programs during the biennium beginning July 1,
26 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

27 **SECTION 21. EXEMPTION - GRASSLANDS GRAZING GRANTS.** The amount of
28 \$5,000,000 appropriated from the strategic investment and improvements fund for grasslands
29 grazing grants in the grants line item in section 1 of chapter 9 of the 2021 Session Laws is not
30 subject to section 54-44.1-11 and may be continued into the biennium beginning July 1, 2023,
31 and ending June 30, 2025.

1 **SECTION 22. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - ENERGY CONVERSION OR**
2 **TRANSMISSION FACILITY - ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION.** During the 2023-24 interim, the
3 legislative management shall consider studying plans for mitigation of adverse wildlife and
4 environmental impacts and monetary payments made to state agencies, contractors,
5 nongovernmental organizations, and others by applicants or other persons for mitigation during
6 the siting and operation of energy conversion or transmission facilities. The study must include
7 consideration of the provisions of law that affect the ability of developers to effectively mitigate
8 adverse wildlife habitat and environmental impacts, applicant payments used for the purchase
9 of perpetual or nonperpetual conservation easements, the distinction between an adverse direct
10 environmental effect or an adverse indirect environmental effect, methods to monetarily quantify
11 adverse direct or adverse indirect environmental effects, and alternative programs that may be
12 used or developed for the mitigation of adverse wildlife and environmental effects. The
13 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
14 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

15 **SECTION 23. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURE**
16 **EDUCATION PROGRAMS.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall
17 consider studying the feasibility and desirability of transferring agriculture education programs in
18 the department of career and technical education to the agriculture commissioner. The study
19 must include an analysis of each program, duties and responsibilities of the programs and
20 department of career and technical education staff, the potential to gain administrative and
21 resource efficiencies if the programs are transferred to the agriculture commissioner, and future
22 staffing, operating, and equipment needs of the programs. The legislative management shall
23 report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
24 recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.